

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express a strong objection to the proposed AT&T & T-Mobile merger. US lags significantly behind the international market in the mobile space, both in terms of service as well as higher prices.

Due to the phone carrier lock and exclusive control over the phone design, phones cannot be re-used between carriers, forcing the consumers to upgrade, which results in both environmental and economical waste. The only significant competition between carriers is in multi-year plans, and due to exclusive phone-carrier contracts (e.g. AT&T + iPhone or Verizon + Motorola Droid), consumers lack the true choice to pick the right phone and the right service. Pricing for SMS, data, hidden fees, special phone design so that just one key stroke would cause an Internet charge for those who don't need it - the list could go on and on.

Phone service should be similar to electricity - we pay for what we use, similar to most other countries in the world. Instead, without the true competition, it became a stagnant field of overcharging companies, which is about to become even more stagnant.

With great concern,

Yuri Astrakhan